Savage Dragon

Hal Jordan's Spectre Corps?

Hal Jordan's had plenty of experience as a member of a team; after all, he was a part of the prestigious Green Lantern Corps for years, protecting Space Sector 2814. Now that he's the Spectre, though, he's a lone Spirit of Vengeance, right?

Not exactly...

In "Mystery in Space," a three-part storyline that begins in ***The Spectre #15,*** Hal learns that somewhere in the same space-ways that he used to soar as Green Lantern, Spirits of Vengeance are destroying entire worlds. These aren't alien Spectres, though, as writer *J.M. DeMatteis* explains. "What we're dealing with in 'Mystery In Space' follows up on what I set up in ***Spectre #11:*** There are *many* other Spectres—on Earth and across the universe—but they are all aspects (some of them unconscious) of Hal's consciousness." And that means that, if he wants to stop these wrathful Spirits, he's going to have to confront himself... on more than one level!

It turns out that's not the only confrontation in Hal's near future, either... because he's about to come face-to-face with one of his oldest and most malevolent adversaries from his Green Lantern days.

Will Hal ever be able to put those Green Lantern days behind him? Probably not, according to DeMatteis. "I think the Green Lantern angle will pop up now and again because, well, that was a *big* part of his existence. But it is no longer the *driving* part of his existence (post-existence?), so I would think that, as time goes on, we'll be seeing less and less of it... But not until Sinestro comes back from the dead!..."

If Hal's enemies are going to come back to haunt him again, what about his allies? Is it possible that his close friend Barry Allen, who sacrificed himself as the Flash to save the universe in ***Crisis on Infinite Earths,*** might re-enter Hal's Spectre-ous life? "No plans for Barry Allen at this time," DeMatteis said, "but that doesn't mean that it won't happen *some* day!"

The Spectre #15 not only kicks off a new storyline, it also introduces two new artists to the series: cover artist *Dave Johnson,* well known for his work on ***100 Bullets*** and ***Detective Comics,*** and penciller *Norm Breyfogle,* who joins DeMatteis to present the Spectre's adventures. "I've never worked with Norm before, although I have admired his work since his ***Batman*** days. I think he's working out wonderfully. He brings a real energy to the book. His pages are bursting with power. He's also the kind of an artist who really thinks about the stories: Conversations with Norm are *always* creatively stimulating. As with any new teaming, I think we're finding our way with each other month by month. Writer-artist chemistry is rarely instantaneous. That said, I think we've been working very well together."

The monthly ***Spectre*** series isn't the only thing filling DeMatteis's calendar right now. **"*Superman: The Kansas Sighting*** is coming along nicely. I've finished the first sixty-four page issue (there'll be two) and *Jamie Tolagson* is doing a fantastic job on the art. I think this is gonna look even better than ***Supergirl: Wings***—and that's saying a *lot.*

"I'm also about halfway through with the ***JLA/Spectre: Soul War*** graphic novel—and that, too, is turning out nicely. Team books are not really my forte; it was a bit of a struggle getting started—but [editor]*Dan Raspler* has been a terrific help. And *Daryl Banks'* pencils are *great!*"

Readers who'd like to get "in the spirit" for that JLA/Spectre meeting might want to give Hal Jordan's monthly adventures a try—after all, this is one character who's quite possibly more powerful than the whole JLA put together!

The Spectre #15, a $2.50 comic, is scheduled for March 6th release.

by CLIFF BIGGERS

Image Enhancement

Image Comics has focused a great deal of attention on diversifying its line of books in the last two years—but the company hasn't forgotten its roots. After all, this *is* the company founded ten years ago by some of the most popular and successful creators in the field. So how does Image celebrate its first decade of publishing?

By offering its fans an original hardcover volume featuring new stories by the four remaining founding members, that's how!

CSN first told readers about this hardcover last summer; now the book is nearly finished and publisher (and co-creator) *Jim Valentino* couldn't be more pleased.

The Image Comics 10th Anniversary Hardcover, scheduled for late February/early March release, will feature four original stories, one by each of the remaining founders. Even better, the stories will focus on significant events in the lives of the characters with with whom the creators are most closely associated. "Spawn tells Wanda who he is—that *has* to have an impact on all of their lives," Valentino said. "The *readers* discover who Dragon is, but the Dragon doesn't. So, in a way, it is the *reader* who has the impact there. Velocity discovers what happened to her former teammates, so *that* would almost have to play a part in any new series. And as for ShadowHawk—well, he's a completely different character, with a completely different MO. This kid, Eddie Collins, is more like the very young Spider-Man—he's digging being a super-hero, so the stories will tend to be a bit lighter in tone than before."

One misconception that Valentino is quick to correct is that this book marks a return to comics creation for the quartet. "The assumption is erroneous. Todd has been inking and involved in co-plotting, scripting and production *all along!* I've sat in his office and I've seen him in meetings where he's cranking on the inks. Eye-witnessed it. (Never listen to ex-employees or ex-wives, that's my rule of thumb...) Marc returned to producing a while ago with *Inferno,* and has done covers all along. And Erik keeps on with Savage Dragon every month. So, they've been involved in production on one level or another. I'm the group's lone slacker—and to describe *my* feelings about it... well, it was weird. Kind of like riding a bicycle for the first time after many years, you don't forget how to do it, but it feels very strange."

Any chance that the ***Image Comics HC*** will lead to new series or two? "Well, I'm not sure about Todd's plans, but we're fairly certain that Erik will do a ***Savage Dragon*** series," Valentino said with a big grin (after all, Larsen has produced ***Savage Dragon*** on a regular schedule ever since the series premiered). "Marc is talking about a new ***CyberForce*** series and, as I said, I have a special ***ShadowHawk*** project in mind."

Any chance of a ***ShadowHawk*** series picking up where the new story leaves off? "Unfortunately, with my already forty-hours-a-day schedule, a series seems out of the question," Valentino said. "I may do something else—I'm secretly plotting an "event" but don't want to say anything about it just yet—with the characters, but there are just not enough hours in my day to do a series." His busy schedule likewise makes it impossible for him to consider a new ***Touch of Silver*** (Valentino's semi-autobiographical comic), either. ***"A Touch of Silver*** is a ways off. When I *do* return to it, though, it will be as a graphic novel."

Valentino isn't the first creator to find that a publisher's demanding schedule made it difficult to find time to write and/or draw new comics. Does he sometimes wish he could take a "publisher's sabbatical" and just do comics again? "No," Valentino said with certainty. "Doing what I do now requires an *enormous* amount of creativity, and I enjoy it immensely. I believe that all creators go through different phase—fans tend to hate this, as they want a creator to stay, more or less wherever they were when the fan first discovered them. This is true for writers, artists, musicians, whatever. There are those creators who gravitate toward the business side; this seems to me to be just another aspect to the act of creation. I'm very fulfilled in this capacity at this point in my development. Should the desire to write or draw call me in the future, I will do what I've always done and follow that path. For now, I am where I'm *supposed* to be."

Did a collaborative project like this help to bring the four creators closer together? "Not particularly, no," he said, laughing. "We talk on a regular/semi-regular basis, as we always have. Think of it like family members who live in different states."

When this "family" began in 1992, there were three additional members: *Jim Lee, Rob Liefeld, and Whilce Portacio.* Liefeld left Image a few years ago to launch his own company, Awesome Comics; Portacio's involvement remained minimal and he never actually functioned as an Image founder; and Lee sold his WildStorm Studios to DC in 1999, where it is now an important imprint in the DC line.

Are there times when Valentino wishes the whole team could be reunited, that the old gestalt could be recreated? "I tend to be one of those people who believes that everything happens for a reason and everything happens in it's own time," he replied philosophically. "As such, I tend not to be overly nostalgic nor do I wish for that which 'might have been.' I tend to deal with what *is.*

"There was never really a gestalt between the partners. This is a fabrication brought upon us by persons not within our circle. I *would* hope that someday whatever bad feelings exist between individuals would be resolved. But that's up to those individuals. For my part, I wish nothing but the best for Rob, Jim and Whilce."

Valentino may not be nostalgic, but he is proud of what he and the other Image founders have done for comics. What does he see as Image's greatest accomplishment? "The answer, from my perspective, is *creative empowerment.* Image provided a vehicle from which more mainstream creators could own their own work, realize their own destinies, and set their own course. The problem, as we have seen, is that far too many proved irresponsible and inclined to unprofessional conduct. Our greatest strength remains our greatest weakness."

By way of making *The Image Comics 10th Anniversary Hardcover* a truly distinctive book, Larsen, McFarlane, Silvestri, and Valentino joined forces and created two different artists' jam pieces; one of them will serve as the cover art for the book, while the other will be available only as an extra in the deluxe slipcased version of the hardcover.

So now that Image's "core four" have collaborated on these pieces, could there be more collaborations in the future? "I am rolling on the floor laughing out loud!" Valentino replied. "For me, getting them to agree to do this was the *first* miracle. Getting them to finish it, the *second.* I'm happy we've gotten this far!"

Are there any surprises in the ***Image Comics HC?*** "The biggest surprise for me was that I finished it!" Valentino said. "And, I'm kind of, sort of, *almost* happy with a couple of bits in it—but then, I'm always my own worst critic."

The Image Comics 10th Anniversary Hardcover is priced at $24.95; the deluxe signed slipcased thousand-copy limited edition, complete with the second jam illustration, is priced at $75.00.

by CLIFF BIGGERS

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

CSNsider

Master Artist John Buscema Dies

John Buscema, one of Marvel's Silver Age greats who subsequently defined the company's style in the 1970s and 1980s, died at the age of 74on January 10th after a prolonged bout with stomach cancer.

Born December 11, 1927 in Brooklyn, NY, Buscema attended the High School of Music and Art and Pratt Institute, where he studied life drawing and design. Ultimately, Buscema's studies landed him a job at Marvel Comics, then Timely Comics, in 1948. After a stint in advertising and some occasional comics work for Dell and others, Buscema returned to Marvel Comics in 1966, at the specific request of then Editor-in-Chief *Stan Lee*.

"*John Buscema* was far more than one of our finest comic book artists," *Stan Lee* said. "If Michelangelo had elected to draw storyboards with pencil and pen, his style would have been close to that of Big John's. But, even more than a superb illustrator, John also was a brilliant visual storyteller. Thinking back on all the strips we had done together, I had only to give him the briefest kernel of a plot and he would flesh it out with his magnificent illustrations so brilliantly that the stories almost seemed to write themselves. Happily, the legacy of artwork that my dear friend, the creative giant that was John Buscema, leaves behind, will bring wonder and enjoyment to generations of readers to come." One of Buscema's final works, completed shortly before news of his cancer reached his many fans, was ***Just Imagine Stan Lee and John Buscema Creating Superman,*** an Elseworlds-style project that reunited the two friends for one final tale.

"It goes without saying what a privilege it was for DC to have tapped the legendary team of *John Buscema* and *Stan Lee* to reimagine Superman just one year ago... and a singular thrill to edit anything John worked on," Executive Editor - DC Universe *Mike Carlin* said. "Sadly, as it's proved to be their final collaboration, it's even more important a personal pleasure to have been a small part of it."

"I remember how captivated I was as a young comics reader by the power of *John Buscema's* artwork," Marvel editor-in-chief Joe Quesada added. "Even at a young age, I knew I was looking at something created by an artist whose skill level was so much better than that of his contemporaries. I had the pleasure about three years ago of meeting Mr. Buscema in the Marvel offices, and he was as powerful a presence in person as his work was on the printed page."

Buscema is survived by his wife Dolores, son John, Jr., daughter Dianne, and four grandchildren.

Thoughts of John

The first time I could linked *John Buscema's* name with his art was when he did a fill-in issue of ***Strange Tales,*** handling the art on a Nick Fury story. The figures were so fluid, so energetic, so dynamic that I kept wondering why this guy wasn't doing more work. Pretty soon, he was--and I was thrilled.

His work on ***The Avengers*** made the book one of my favorites, but like so many, I fell in love with his ***Silver Surfer.*** His image of Loki slouching languorously in a thronelike chair—an image that first appeared in the splash page of ***Silver Surfer #4***—has ever since defined the character. John was like that—in his use of posture to communicate character, he brought a hero or villain to life like no other.

When John took over ***Conan,*** I wasn't sure that I would adjust to *Barry Windsor-Smith's* departure—but soon I began to envision Conan as John drew him. While BWS depicted the young Conan, John captured the feral strength of the character in his maturity.

His Western work possessed the same verisimilitude that *James Bama* brought to Western paperback art. His horror-suspense work was moody and evocative. His romance work was emotional, and his women were always lushly beautiful. But I'll always associate John with that Marvel superhero work that first made me appreciate his skill.

Years before I ever knew the name Buscema, I had picked up a ragged copy of Dell's adaptation of the film ***The Vikings;*** I held on to that book even after I had gotten rid of almost all of my other Dell movie adaptations, because there was a vitality to that book that was so distinctive when compared to other Dell comics. I found out later on that John was the uncredited artist for that book as well—so I had been a fan of his long before I even knew it!

He was an artist, a craftsman, a dedicated creator with a work ethic all too rare in the field, and his influence will help to shape the industry for many years to come.

But in heaven, the comics just got a little bit better...

By **Cliff Biggers**

Big Plans for Some Little Heroes

A few weeks ago, ***CSNsider*** told you about Devil's Due Publishing's plans to return ***Micronauts*** to its former glory in a new Image Comics series premiering later this year. Now we can share a little more info about the direction of the series and the creators involved.

"It took a while to get the initial character designs approved," Devil's Due president *Josh Blaylock* said, "but now that we have, I wanted to share them with the thousands of Micronauts fans eagerly awaiting a sneak peak."

Blaylock has enlisted *Michael Golden*, the penciller of Marvel's original ***Micronauts*** series in the '70s and early '80s, to supply the cover art for the first few issues of the series. The interiors will be written by *Scott Wherle* and illustrated by penciller *Eric Wolfe Hanson* and inker *Barbara Schulz*, with Blaylock acting as creative director.

"We're looking forward to making this series the best it can be," Blaylock said, "and something that both the hardcore ***Micro***-fans and newcomers alike will enjoy."

"***Micronauts*** will be an on-going, full-color, bimonthly series, tentatively scheduled to begin in June, 2002," Image VP and publisher *Jim Valentino* said.. "Josh's track-record on ***G.I. Joe,*** which has shipped two issues early, should give retailers confidence that the ***Micronauts*** will ship on time, *every* time."

Writer *Scott Wherle* is excited about the company's plans for ***Micronauts***—and he's optimistic that fans will be just as pleased as he is with the way the series is coming together. "We've been given the green light for a fresh start, so the designs you see are a result of that," Wherle said in an online posting. "*Eric Wolfe Hanson*, the artist, did plenty of research (aside from what he already knew) and took ideas from a little of everywhere and everyone (myself, Josh and even ***G.I. Joe*** artist *Steve Kurth*), mixed them with his own to come up with what I think are some very cool designs. We really didn't want to restrict ourselves to just basing them off the toys or the Marvel series, so we went with a little taste of everything in hopes to give fans of all the different aspects of ***Micronauts*** something to sink their teeth into while creating something new entirely."

While fan response to the few preview images has been very positive, Wherle reminds readers that "what you've seen thus far are merely production sketches. Eric is working on ***G.I. Joe #5*** as we speak, a fill in issue, then he'll begin work on ***Micronauts #1,*** the script of which is done and in Mr. Blaylock's and Mr. Hanson's grubby little hands."

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Wherle is keeping the cast of characters and their relationships a secret for now. "Telling you would give the story away. Have to leave something to the imagination. I *will* offer this nugget, however: Not all the characters you've seen previewed are as bright and shiny good as you might think...

"I *can* say that things are a little different this time around. Since we're not able to use key characters from the Marvel series, we'll be starting fresh. Some of the characters and concepts will be familiar—but for the most part, we're starting over. Don't worry, though. This won't be one of those lame reboots where everything is different and doesn't hold the same flavor as your childhood favorite. We've kept a lot of the elements that made the old series and especially the old toys, intact, while taking some interesting twists. Believe me when I say, this is *not* your big brother's ***Micronauts***!

"Starting over is pretty much the only option since Bug, Mari and Rann aren't available to use. (Shame, because I really *liked* Bug and Mari.) Space Glider will figure prominently in the series, but it's obviously not Commander Rann. However, Knave is really the only character that could be considered an analogue. We miss Bug. Plain and simple. Princess Persephone's story isn't nearly as simple as it may seem on the surface. She's definitely NOT a Mari stand-in as it would appear. Keep your eyes on ***Micronauts #2*** for her story.

"There are a few interesting twists on the characters everyone's familiar with that made the leap from the Marvel series. I was a big fan of the original ***Micronauts*** series—and yes, even the New Voyages. However, I never *did* like Biotron or Microtron. I decided when I started this that I would find a way to write them so that I would like them. I think I've succeeded. "

Josh Blaylock assures fans that they won't need a voluminous knowledge of the original ***Micronauts*** to enjoy the new series. " Due mostly to legal reasons, we'll be doing a complete revamp of the ***Micronauts*** universe. That means we are acting as if the old series never happened as far as continuity goes," he posted. "Never fear, though! As you can see from the production art, we are doing everything we can to make sure that this has all the magic of the original..."

Micronauts #1 is scheduled for June release.

Archie Adds Ginger to Comics Recipe

It's been a while since Archie Comics expanded its ensemble cast with the addition of Cheryl Blossom to the lineup—so it's time to bring a bit player into the spotlight. This spring, Ginger Lopez (who was first introduced in ***Betty & Veronica Spectacular #50***) will star in her own solo story in ***Archie & Friends #57.***

"Inspired by the classic ***Ginger*** character and series published by Archie in the 1940s and 1950s," Paul Castiglia of Archie Comics explained, "this new character was revamped to reflect modern times and also brought a touch a diversity to the Archieverse: Ginger and her family are affluent latinos. Her dad is a popular television chef and her mom is a famous animal trainer. As for Ginger herself, she's the teen fashion editor for a magazine as well as a model and fashion designer! And just when Betty & Veronica thought they'd one have less rival for Archie's affections once Cheryl left town, along came Ginger to set her sights on America's favorite teen as well!"

Her first solo book, written and illustrated by *Dan Parent*, features three stories. The first, "Back to the Big Apple," follows Ginger to New York as she sets out to cover a fashion festival—and finds herself face to face with a Latino singing star/fashion designer. The second, "Disguise," sends her undercover for the interview of her life. And the third puts Riverdale in the spotlight when cable music channel NTV sends Veejay Carson Weekly to cover Riverdale High's prom. ***Archie & Friends #57*** is scheduled for April 19th release.

Statues on the Move!

Bowen Designs, the company best known to many fans for their stunning Marvel Comics statues and busts, recently confirmed rumors that their contract with Marvel is coming to an end later this year."The Mini-bust license is set to expire December of 2002," *Randy Bowen* told ***CSNsider***. "From the time of this writing

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(January 2002) we're going to try and release about twenty more busts (after Silver Surfer). The full size statue license is set to expire March 2002 (Storm is the last in our full size series). The mini-statue license will expire in December of 2003 2003.

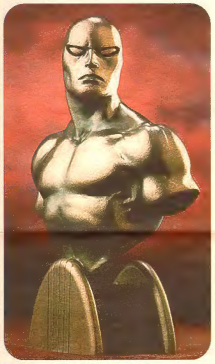
"When I first started sculpting the mini-busts, people thought I was nuts. 'Who wants half a statue?' they would say to me. Now it seems that companies are multiplying like rabbits and snatching up every license that's not nailed down to produce these little suckers. I guess we must've done *something* right."

So what does Bowen have on the schedule when the Marvel contract expires? "A little rest, for God's sake! I've been sculpting for fifteen years solid. It's been three years since I've had a vacation! Project-wise, I'm looking forward to sculpting some original pieces and working with some independent creators. We're still working out the details, so we'll let you know when we can announce the actual projects."

Don't worry, though: you won't be left Marvel statue-less. The company has tapped Diamond Select as the manufacturer of choice for statues and busts featuring Marvel Comics characters (while Dynamic Forces will continue their line of ***Marvel Earth X*** statues based on the series created by *Alex Ross* and *Jim Krueger*) . For busts, we currently have two lines in production," *Eric Lyga* of Diamond Select told ***CSNsider***. "***Ultimate Busts***, based on the ***Ultimate*** line of comics (of which Storm and Magneto have already been solicited, with Spider-Man, Green Goblin, and more coming soon), and Spider-Man's Rogues' Gallery—a series of busts of Spider-Man's greatest foes (including Lizard, Venom, Kraven, and others), sculpted by Art Asylum.

"Our first line of statues, which are each are eight inches tall, features Avengers in pairs designed so that the bases link up. First up is Red Skull, who will link with Captain America. We also have Vision and Scarlet Witch, Thor and Loki, and Iron Man and Mandarin," Lyga said.

Keep checking ***CSNsider*** for some early sneak peeks of Diamond Select's statues and busts—and judging from the Storm Bust that's already been unveiled, it's safe to say that you're going to like what you see!



Ins & Outs

In: ***Smallville***, which is in the works at DC Direct; they've secured the rights to produce a line of ***Smallville Action Figures*** based on the WB's hit Tuesday-night series. The first three figures will be based on the likenesses of Clark Kent (*Tom Welling*), Lana Lang (*Kristen Kreuk*) and Lex Luthor (*Michael Rosenbaum*), as they appear on ***Smallville***.

"We're absolutely delighted to be able to offer figures based on such an enormously popular series," *Cheryl Rubin*, DC's VP—Licensing & Merchandising, said. You'll get a sneak peek at the figures in the April issue of ***Previews***, but they won't be in stores until later this summer.

DC's Executive Vice President and Publisher *Paul Levitz* added, "Everyone at DC loves the way ***Smallville*** has reinvented the Superman mythology for a new audience. The ***Smallville*** guys have been doing such a great job playing with our toys; now we'll get to play with theirs!"

Out: *Bob Greenberger*, a veteran DC staffer who left comics for a time and then joined Marvel as traffic manager to get their comics back on schedule, was let go by the publisher in early 2002. Greenberger was one of several staffers laid off or fired by the company; some of his duties were assumed by *David Bogart*, who recently left Harris Comics to join the Marvel team. "*Joe [Quesada]* lured me back into comics after ten months at a dotcom, and my portfolio of responsibilities changed along the way, which provided me with plenty of (mostly welcome) challenges... However, *Bill [Jemas]* decided things under my watch were not going as hoped and I got the ax," Greenberger said. He has already had offers both within and without the comics field.

In: Marvel's ***Essentials*** and ***Masterworks***, which the company plans to bring back into print over the next year (for ***Essentials***) to two years (for ***Masterworks***). These reprints of classic Marvel comics have, in some cases, proven very difficult to track down—and some of them are already demanding collector's prices on the secondary market!

In: *Bill Jemas*, who has been promoted to Chief Operating Officer for Marvel Enterprises. Marvel CEO *Peter Cuneo* described Jemas as "the driving force in the formulation and execution of new strategies and tactics that have pushed [Marvel's publishing, licensing, and online] businesses to new heights. And, most importantly, Bill has recruited, a new wave of top executive talent and successfully integrated them into the company's operations." No word on what, if any, effect this will have on his role as Marvel's publisher.

In: ***X-Factor,*** who'll apparently be returning in a new project slated to debut in late April.

Marvel released a teaser image for the series, but offered no information about its content, creative team, etc. The original ***X-Factor*** ended its run three and a half years ago.

In: *Darko Macan*, who's been tapped to replace the departing *David Tischman* as writer on ***Cable***. He'll be working with artist *Igor Kordey*, whose work on the series has been generating more than a little buzz.

Bravely & Boldly Facing the Future

Last summer, *CSN* told you about *Kevin Smith*, *Phil Hester*, and *Andy Parks*' upcoming ***Brave & Bold*** series featuring team-ups of various DC heroes. The new book, which continues the heritage of the Silver Age classic title—and which will prominently feature Batman in many of its stories—will reunite the entire team of the 2001 hit series ***Green Arrow***.

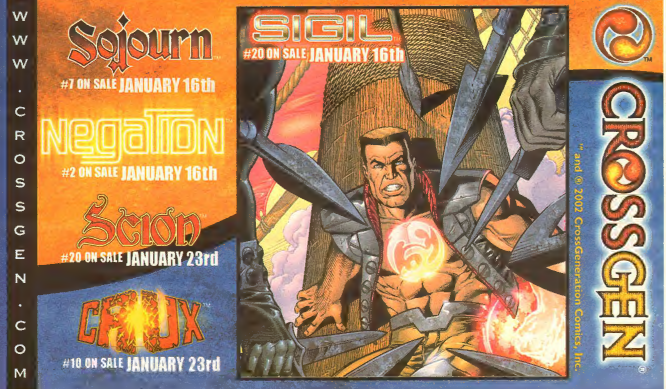
Don't start haunting your local comic shop for the first issue of *Brave & Bold* quite yet, though. It's *definitely* on *Kevin Smith*'s calendar, but it's in the works quite yet. Before he takes on the new series, he's "finishing up ***Green Arrow***," Smith told ***CSNsider***, "then it's onto Black Cat [his next Marvel project], *then* onto ***Brave & Bold***." As for the end of his run on Green Arrow, that's approaching in mid-2002. "I'm off as of Green Arrow #16," he said—and of course, that's several issues more than his original commitment, which he extended because he was having so much fun with the series. So what's in store now that "Quiver" has wrapped up? "I have a few shorter stories I want to tell. I'm having a great time with Ollie, and I'm not ready to say goodbye," Smith said.

Making Purgatori a Little More Jolley

Dan Jolley, best known for his work with *Tony Harris* on ***Dr. Strange, JSA: The Liberty File,*** and ***Obergeist,*** is bringing some Chaos! to his life this spring. Jolley has signed on as writer of Purgatori: God Hunter, The series begins with Sakkara studying the modern world in her temporary home on the island paradise of Ibiza, Spain, while trying to understand the bizarre metamorphosis she's slowly begun to undergo. A mysterious Egyptian priest approaches Sakkara and "invites" her back to Cairo, where matters soon take a bloody turn.

"I'm excited to be able to expand into the Chaos! Universe with this project," Jolley said. "Plus, [Chaos! publisher] *Brian Pulido* has told me I'll get to sit at his right hand when he becomes Lord and Master of Earth."

Purgatori: God Hunter #1 is scheduled for mid-March release.



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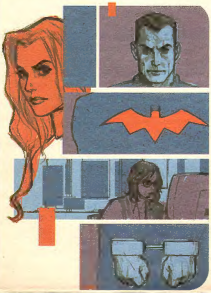


Event of the Month: Crime & Punishment?

DETECTIVE COMICS #767
(DC DEC010536 $2.50)

NIGHTWING #66
(DC DEC010538 $2.25)

BATMAN: GOTHAM KNIGHTS #26
(DC DEC010537 $2.50)

ROBIN #99
(DC DEC010538 $2.25)

BIRDS OF PREY #40
(DC DEC010540 $2.50)

BATMAN #600
(DC DEC010541 $3.95; also available in a signed edition (DEC012363 $19.99) and a hand-sketched edition (DEC012364 $69.99))

What's the Scoop?
Batman continues to wrestle with dual-identity-related problems... but that's to be expected when your other identity is a man who's been charged with murder! The "Bruce Wayne: Murderer?" storyline continues through five more Bat-books, culminating in ***Batman #600***, which escalates the saga to the next level with the beginning of "Bruce Wayne: Fugitive."

There must be something about Batman that inspires creators; the Batverse has again and again been the home for riveting events like ***Knightfall***, ***Cataclysm***, ***No Man's Land***, and now ***Bruce Wayne: Murderer?/Fugitive***. The success of mega-events like this, which involve a wide variety of Bat-books, is a tribute to the organizational skills of the Bat-editors, who manage to keep the story on track and focused even as a couple of dozen creators make their own individual contributions to the grand dramatic tapestry.

Why Should You Care?
Lots of big events can be found in February's books, including the return of Alfred in what may be Batman's darkest hour. You'll also find some significant developments in Batman's relationship with Robin and Nightwing in here... along with the possibility of a Bruce Wayne-less DC Universe!

BATTLE GIRLZ #1
Rod Espinosa (W/A)
Antarctic Press DEC012123 $2.99

Battle Girlz is a story of a team of Supreme Heroines from different backgrounds gathered together by a legendary goddess to live in her strange mansion and fight evil across the universe... and beyond

What's the Scoop?
A team of Supreme Heroines—Expert Mech Girl, Super-Mighty Girl, Powerful Priestess, Nerdy Gadgeteer, and Seductive Temptress—are assembled by a legendary goddess into a rather offbeat superteam.

Why Should You Care?
Rod Espinosa's new series brings his distinctive manga-influenced edge to a Promethea-esque blending of mythology and superheroine action.

BLUE MONDAY: LOVECATS
Chynna Clugston-Major (W/A)
(Oni DEC012519 $2.95)

What's the Scoop?
Cupid pays a visit to Jefferson High—but neither Clover nor Victor ever imagined he'd be aiming those arrows of love at them!

Why Should You Care?
This delightful oneshot continues Clugston-Major's fascinating human interest series—sort of an *Archie: The Next Generation*!

CAGE #1
Brian Azzarello (W); Richard Corben (A)
(Marvel/MAX DEC011789 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?
Luke Cage goes urban in this limited series by ***100 Bullets*** writer *Brian Azzarello* and legendary artist *Richard Corben*. Think "John Singleton meets Hero for Hire."

Why Should You Care?
If anyone can make gritty work, it's Azzarello... and *any* book illustrated by Corben is a comic book event.

COWBOY BEBOP #1
Yukata Nanten (W/A)
(TokyoPop DEC012569 $2.95)

What's the Scoop?
The ultrapopular sf adventure series makes the jump from the screen to the page—and it's even presented in the right-to-left Japanese format to enhance your manga experience!

Why Should You Care?
Cowboy Bebop remains one of Toonami's most popular features on the small screen—and now there's a movie on the way. That translates to a *lot* of eager readers for this new series!

DEFIANCE #1
Douglas Barré & Joey Lee (W); Kano Khang & Zach Suh (A)
(Image DEC011506 $2.95)

What's the Scoop?
One man has the power of stopping the coming war between Earth and Hell... because he's had experience with both. Problem is, he only has a vague idea of the mission he was resurrected for...

Why Should You Care?
The story by *Douglass Barré* and *Joey Lee* is targeted at fans of Top Cow's horror-adventure titles—but it's the stylish painted art by *Kano Khang* and *Zach Suh* that's going to turn heads.

FARSCAPE: WAR TORN #1
Marv Wolfman (W); Robert Teranishi, Carlos Mota, & Keith Aiken (A)
(WildStorm/DC DEC010601 $4.95)

What's the Scoop?
The cult-fave sf series jumps from the Sci-Fi channel to the comic shop rack in this two-issue prestige-format series that is the first of several ***Farscape*** projects from WildStorm.

Why Should You Care?
Farscape's dedicated following, reminiscent of early ***Trek*** fandom in their enthusiastic support of the series, will have to have this comic; you can expect to see comic shop newcomer traffic on this one

HISTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE TP
Marv Wolfman (W); George Pérez & Karl Kesel (A)
(DC DEC010576 $9.95; also available in a signed edition (DEC012369 $99.95))

What's the Scoop?
Okay, it's a reprint of a book originally offered in hardcover more than a decade ago—but for

most folks reading comics today, History of the DC Universe is an hitherto-unseen illustrated history by Marv Wolfman, George Pérez, and Karl Kesel. Originally done as a post-*Crisis* look at DC continuity, the book remains a fascinating look at the DC Universe from its earliest prehistory to its remote future.

Why Should You Care?

If you enjoy stories set in the DC Universe, it's an essential addition to your library. If you're a fan of George Pérez's art, here's a hero-filled history featuring virtually every DC hero in existence post-Crisis. If you don't fall in either of those categories, grab it anyway and you'll join their ranks!

IMAGE COMICS 10TH ANNIVERSARY HC

Erik Larsen; Todd McFarlane; Marc Silvestri; Jim Valentino & Chance Wolf (W/A)

(Image DEC011488 $24.95; also available in a deluxe limited edition slipcase version that includes an extra jam illustration available nowhere else (DEC011489 $75.00))

What's the Scoop?

Image's "fantastic four" (*Erik Larsen, Todd McFarlane, Marc Silvestri,* and *Jim Valentino*) celebrate the tenth birthday of their baby with a 128-page hardcover featuring all-new stories starring their most famous creations.

Why Should You Care?

This book's contents include the origin of the Dragon, a new ShadowHawk, revelations about the fate of Velocity's CyberForce teammates, and a turning point in Spawn's "life"—and that's *plenty* of reason to care if you've ever been an Image fan.

INTRODUCING THE TICK #1

Silvia, Kazybrid, & Atkison (W/A)

(NEC DEC012515 $3.95)

What's the Scoop?

Okay, Fox's *Tick* tv show is already history, but there are still a lot of fans of that bit of boob-tube-wackiness who'll want to check out this comic!

Why Should You Care?

A great primer for readers who haven't sampled *Ben Edlund's* lunatick hero,—and there are also some interesting untold tidbits in here sure to appeal to longtime fans.

JLA: SHOGUN OF STEEL

Ben Raab (W); Justiniano (A)

(DC DEC010578 $6.95)

What's the Scoop?

Kal-El's rocketship crashlands in 14th century feudal Japan, where the Rising Son of Krypton hooks up with a ragtag league of justice-seeking warriors to defeat a "Shogun of Steel"—a shogun with mysterious connections to the Kryptonian.

Why Should You Care?

Ben Raab and *Justiniano* combine superheroics and Japanese culture in a slick Elseworlds sixty-four-pager.

JSA #33

Geoff Johns & David Goyer (W); Leonard Kirk, Keith Champagne, Keith Giffen, & Al Milgrom (A)

(DC DEC010579 $2.50)

What's the Scoop?

Every supervillain wants to take over the world... but the Ultra-Humanite has actually

JUST IMAGINE STAN LEE WITH JOHN BYRNE CREATING ROBIN

managed to succeed! Now, what does he do with it—and what does he do about Sand and Icicle, who have plans to reverse his victorious conquest?

Why Should You Care?

JSA kicks off "Stealing Thunder," its first major storyline since the return of Hawkman saga last spring—and you remember how quickly that one sold out! Another point in its favor: co-writer *David Goyer*, who's wrapped up his work on ***Blade II,*** returns to team up with *Geoff Johns* for this saga.

JUST IMAGINE STAN LEE WITH JOHN BYRNE CREATING ROBIN

(DC DEC010582 $5.95; also available in a signed edition (DEC012367 $149.99))

What's the Scoop?

This Robin isn't Batman's ward... but he may be Batman's worst nightmare! Can a kid under Dominic Darrk's control break free to follow his destiny? *Stan Lee* and *John Byrne* answer that question in this prestige-format oneshot that kicks off the second half of the ***Just Imagine...*** event.

Why Should You Care?

Not only does this series offer intriguing glimpses of still more DCU heroes reinterpreted by *Stan Lee*, it also paves the way for the ***Just Imagine...*** version of ***Crisis***, the dramatic ending to the year-long event.

L33T: COMICS FOR GAMERS #1

Greg Dean & Others (W/A)

(Keenspot DEC012457 $4.95)

What's the Scoop?

The popular webcomic about your average everyday gamer fanatic is now a forty-eight-page print-comic. Now those of you who prefer to read your comics online can enjoy this story of a gamer who's the comic-strip equivalent of a videogame character controlled by a cartoonist with a twisted sense of humor.

Why Should You Care?

Greg Dean's ***L33T*** is entertaining enough to make this one worth the ticket price, but there are also plenty of bonuses, including other gamer comics by *Carson Fire* and *Paul Southworth* and a bonus gaming-related issue of ***Superosity*** at no additional charge!

MARQUIS: DEVIL'S REIGN—HELL'S COURTESAN #1

(Guy Davis (W/A)

(Om DEC012520 $2.95)

What's the Scoop?

That ol' debbil magic has Venisalle in its spell... but the Marquis's on the case! His mission: to free those innocent townspeople who have been possessed by those diabolical souls who escaped hell.

Why Should You Care?

Guy Davis is turning out one of the field's finest horror works here—and he does it without any sensationalism or splatterpunk.

MUTIES #1

Karl Bollers (W); Peter Ferguson & Max Douglas (A)

(Marvel DEC011805 $2.50)

What's the Scoop?

It may read like a ***Twilight Zone*** episode you never saw, but this story of a tormented thirteen-year-old boy genius is set smack-dab in the middle of the Marvel Mutantverse.

Why Should You Care?

Muties explores the human side of the mutantverse with powerful stories focusing on people who'd love to be normal. (Sort of like most of us, except these guys are mutants...)

OBERGEIST: THE EMPTY LOCKET

Dan Jolley & Tony Harris (W); Tony Harris & Ray Snyder (A)

(Image DEC011515 $2.95)

What's the Scoop?

You've followed Jürgen Steinholtz on his quest for spiritual redemption; now you can find out how he fell from grace prior to his death in this powerful oneshot by *Dan Jolley, Tony Harris,* and *Ray Snyder*.

Why Should You Care?

Obergeist was one of the best Vertigo titles that Vertigo *didn't* publish in 2001—and it's just as compelling in 2002!

ORDER #1

Kurt Busiek & Jo Duffy (W); Matt Haley (A)

(Marvel DEC011827 $2.25)

What's the Scoop?

The Defenders determine that the best defense is a good offense—so they take over the world... and that offends pretty much every other hero in existence!

Why Should You Care?

Radically different storyline, radically new visual style—*Kurt Busiek, Jo Duffy,* and *Matt Haley* take the Defenders in a bold new direction in this six-issue series. The backup story in Defenders #12 offered a hint of what was to come, but the superheroic benevolent dictatorship begins in earnest right here!

FEBRUARY HOT PICKS!

PATH PREQUEL

Ron Marz (W); Bart Sears, Andy Smith, & Mike Atiyeh (A)

(CrossGen DEC012296 $2.95)

What's the Scoop?

CrossGen looks Eastward for its new Asian-themed series—but don't think of this as just "comics Kung Fu." *Ron Marz, Bart Sears, Andy Smith,* and *Mike Atiyeh* have come up with an Asian-influenced tale that blends martial arts and the metaphysical—but it's all done with that distinctive CrossGen fantasy edge.

Why Should You Care?

The company's earlier venture into "genre fantasy" was *Ruse*, one of 2001's finest new series. With a martial arts angle and a grade-A creative team, this new genre-barrier-breaking series is likely to duplicate *Ruse*'s success. Even better, this issue is a bargain—forty-eight pages for a thirty-two-page price!

POWER COMPANY #1

Kurt Busiek (W); Tom Grummett & Wade von Grawbadger (A)

(DC DEC010586 $2.50)

What's the Scoop?

Superhero*ing* may be a noble profession, but even superheroes have to pay the bills. These heroes have come up with a way to do both: they run their superhero operation like a business, with members specializing in different types of "cases" on a for-hire basis. Hey, if it's good enough for lawyers!...

Why Should You Care?

Kurt Busiek makes his DC series debut with this blend of old and new heroes. DC is so excited about this one they gave you a free sample in *JLA #61* and offered five prequel oneshots that focus on the individual members of the Power Company—now you can see how they function as a team.

SCI SPY #1

Doug Moench (W); Paul Gulacy (A)

(Vertigo/DC DEC010626 $2.50)

What's the Scoop?

James Bond in space! His name is Sebastian Starchild, and he's a galaxy-hopping secret agent whose field of operations is the entire universe.

Why Should You Care?

Doug Moench and *Paul Gulacy* are certainly familiar with spies—after all, these are the guys who introduced the Bondian Clive Reston in *Master of Kung Fu* before trying their collaborative hands at a miniseries starring the distinguished Mr. Bond himself a few years later. This time, though, they get to season their espionage with a lot of science fiction adventure. Think of it as two great tastes that taste great together!

SPYBOY/YOUNG JUSTICE #1

Peter David (W); Pop Mhan & Todd Nauck (A)

(Dark Horse DEC010015 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

What menace would require the attention of both Young Justice *and* SpyBoy & friends? Howsabout a combination of menaces, including SKINS, Zandia, REMbrandt the artist of dreams, and Japanese crime boss Annie Mae? Sure, it sounds zany... but that's part of the fun!

Why Should You Care?

Mastermind *Peter David* may be having too much fun with this wacky crossover series—but since he's letting is share in the good time, we're not complaining. And rather than playing artistic favorites, he's enlisted the aid of *SpyBoy*'s *Pop Mhan* and *Young Justice*'s *Todd Nauck* to supply the pretty pictures.

WOLVERINE/HULK #1

Sam Kieth (W/A)

(Marvel DEC011821 $3.50; also available in a signed edition (DEC012053 $19.99))

What's the Scoop?

Sam Kieth, creator of quirky comics like *The Maxx* and character-driven dramas like *Four Women*, returns to over-the-top superhero adventure with this four-part series... but he's brought a little of the quirkiness and the character-driven drama with him.

Why Should You Care?

Any series Kieth done deserves a closer look—and his take on Wolverine will click with fans who've enjoyed Marvel's edgy creator-concept matchups in *X-Force*, *Ultimate Marvel Team-Up*, and *Tangled Webs*.

Simmering Beneath the Surface

(The Comic You Should Be Reading)

SATYR #0

Mike Indovina (W/A)

(Satyr Play DEC012545 $2.00)

Okay, be honest: you saw a reference to a satyr and you were expecting some sexy romp that would fit in with Cinemax's late-night fare, right? Boy, are you in for a surprise—but it's a very pleasant one if you're looking for a comic that entertains and appeals to the mind rather than... well, you get the idea. This book focuses on Silenus, the irreverently hip and extremely likeable king of the satyrs, who reveals his secret life as a thespian when he and his friends put on their own version of Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*. The blending of humor, mythology, literature, and clever storytelling communicates Indovina's love for classic literature while never failing to entertain.

Cool Collections

(February's Best Reprint Titles)

ALISON DARE: LITTLE MISS ADVENTURES TP 2/27 Oni DEC012521 $8.95

104-page compilation of Alison Dare's misadventures

AQUA KNIGHT VOL 3 TP 2/13 Viz DEC012623 $16.95

The conclusion of the long-awaited new series by Yukito Kishiro

ATOMICS KING SIZE GIANT SPECTACULAR VOL 4 AAA Pop DEC012083 $8.95

It's the entire "Savage Dragon meets Madman meets The Atomics Super Saga," as chronicled in the pages of The Atomics, collected in a single volume

BLADE, DUEL WITH DRACULA TP 2/27 Marvel DEC011848 $17.95

Reprinting the Blade-Deacon Frost storyline by Marv Wolfman, Gene Colan, and Tom Palmer from Tomb of Dracula #45-53 & 58

BLOOD & ROSES VOL 1 HC Blue Line DEC012179 $24.95

A collection of the four-issue limited series by Bob Hickey and Brad Gorby

BLOOD & ROSES VOL 1 HC SIGNED Blue Line DEC012180 $32.95

CAPTAIN AMERICA: TO SERVE AND PROTECT TP 2/13 Marvel NOV011864 $17.95

Reprinting Captain America Vol 3 #s 1-7

CAPTAIN BRITAIN TP 2/16 Marvel OCT011903 $19.95

At last, the saga by Alan Moore and Alan Davis is back in print!

COLONIA: ISLANDS & ANOMALIES VOL 1 TP AiT/PlanetLar DEC012101 $12.95

The first five issues of Jeff Nicholson's adventure fantasy are collected in trade paperback

DIVINE RIGHT BOOK ONE TP 2/27WildStorm/DC DEC010598 $17.95

Max Faraday receives the creation equation—and suddenly everyone wants his secret... and they want him dead! Reprinting Divine Right #s 1-7 by Jim Lee and Scott Williams

DOOM TP 2/27 Marvel DEC011854 $15.95

Reprinting the two Doom miniseries by Chuck Dixon and Leonardo Manco

DR STRANGE: A SEPARATE REALITY TP 2/27 Marvel NOV011868 $19.95

Reprinting Frank Brunner's Dr. Strange stories from Marvel Premiere #s 4, 6, & 9-14

ELFQUEST READERS COLLECTION VOL 8B: IN ALL BUT BLOOD TP Warp DEC012643 $16.95

Four new tales take a look at the unique bond between Wolfrider chief Cutter and his lifelong companion Skywise

ESSENTIAL ANT-MAN TP 2/27 Marvel NOV011869 $14.95

Compiling every Ant Man and Giant Man story from Tales to Astonish #s 27 and 35-69 in one 576-page volume

EXILES TP 2/13 Marvel NOV011865 $12.95

Reprinting Exiles #s 1-4

FANTASTIC FOUR: INTO THE BREACH TP 2/16 Marvel OCT011905 $15.95

Reprinting the second Carlos Pacheco-Jeph Loeb story arc

FLASH ARCHIVES VOL 3 HC 2/6 DC DEC010569 $49.95

This landmark volume reprints Flash (first series) #117-124, which includes the "Flash of Two Worlds" story (from #123) that reintroduced the Golden Age Flash and first mentioned the concept of an "Earth-Two!"

FLASH ARCHIVES VOL 3 HC SIGNED DF DEC012370 $199.99

FUSHIGI YUGI VOL 6 SUMMONER TP 2/20 Viz DEC012612 $15.95

Distraught over the apparent loss of Tamahome and the trouble she's caused Suzaku's warriors, Miaka attempts to drown herself only to have Hotohori come to her rescue

GI JOE: M.I.A. 2/6 Image DEC011508 $4.95

GI Joe #s 1 & 2 are collected in a single volume

GUNSMITH CATS: MISTY'S RUN TP 2/13 Dark Horse NOV010041 $14.95

Reprinting Gunsmith Cats: Mister V #s 8-11 plus two short stories

HELLBLAZER: GOOD INTENTIONS TP 2/13 Vertigo/DC DEC010621 $12.95

Reprinting Hellblazer #s 151-156, chronicling Constantine's West Virginia misadventure

ISLAND VOL 2 POCKET TP TokyoPop DEC012582 $14.95

Anybody need an exorcist? There's a new face in Cheju island, and he could be Miho's salvation... literally

JLA VOL 8: DIVIDED WE FALL TP 2/2 DC NOV010589 $17.95

Reprinting the fairy-tale-nightmare and altered-destiny storylines by Mark Waid, Bryan Hitch, and others from JLA #s 47-54

JUDGE DREDD: HELTER SKELTER GN Titan DEC012568 $14.99

Reprinting stories by Garth Ennis and Carlos Ezquerra

LEGACY: FIRST INHERITANCE COLLECTION VOL 1 TP Antarctic DEC012128 $16.95

Twins Joe and Vicky Dumar, aided by 8-year-old genius Shiva, struggle to accept reality as they deal with their super-powered inheritance

LIFE AND DEATH OF CAPTAIN MARVEL TP 2/20 Marvel NOV011866 $24.95

Reprinting the out-of-print Life of Captain Marvel retrospective series along with the Death of Captain Marvel graphic novel in one Jim Starlin extravaganza

LONE WOLF AND CUB VOL 18: LAST KUROKUWA TP 2/27 Dark Horse NOV010042 $9.95

Retsudo must turn to the Fire Watchers, a select band of warriors, for help in solving the Lone Wolf & Cub problem before the Yagyu clan falls out of favor

MAD READER PB Pocket Books DEC012767 $9.99

Facsimile edition of the very first Mad paperback collection from 1954

MADMAN: ODDITY ODYSSEY 10TH ANNIV TP 2/20 Oni DEC012518 $15.95

New edition of the original Madman collection by Michael Allred

MARIONETTE GENERATION VOL 2 TP 2/20 Viz DEC012613 $14.95

One morning, illustrator Izumi Morino awakens to find himself in bed with a curious rag doll named Lunch who has special powers! Is she really alive, or just a schism of spacetime?

MARVEL MASTERWORKS: UNCANNY X-MEN HC 2/6 Marvel NOV011861 $49.95

Reprinting X-Men #s 22-31, which include the first appearances of Mimic and Banshee

MERIDIAN VOL 2 TP 2/20 CrossGen DEC012299 $19.95

Reprinting Meridian #s 8-14 and CrossGen Chronicles #3

METROPOL COLL EDITION VOL 5 TP 2/6 Sorhenn DEC012558 $11.95

This black-and-white collected edition contains the director's cut of Metropol and Metropol A.D. plus pages from Ted McKeever's sketchbooks

MOBILE SUIT GUNDAM 0079 VOL 3 TP 2/27 Viz DEC012628 $9.95

No longer able to handle the pressure of piloting the Gundam prototype, Amuro deserts the White Base and sets out on his own

PLANET OF THE APES VOL 1 TP 2/20 Dark Horse NOV010039 $9.95

Reprinting the first three issues of the ongoing series

PUNISHER: ARMY OF ONE TP 2/20 Marvel NOV011867 $15.95

Reprinting the first six issues of the new Punisher series

RANMA 1/2 VOL 19 TP 2/6 Viz DEC012621 $15.95

Ranma and Genma are fighting about food (again), but this time it gets serious when Genma kicks Ranma out of the house

RECORD OF LODOSS WAR: CHRONICLES HEROIC KNIGHT BOOK 2 CPM DEC012284 $15.95

Spark and his companions face the Dark Elf who has taken over the beautiful city of Roid

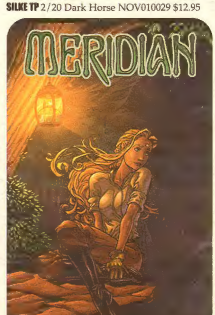
SHI: YEAR OF DRAGON TP Crusade DEC012314 $9.99

Year of the Dragon tells the tale of an adolescent Ana Ishikawa as she battles the claws of drug addiction, and the murder of her best friend to the venomous Yakuza

SIGIL VOL 2 TP 2/27 CrossGen DEC012297 $19.95

Reprinting Sigil #s 8-14, plus CrossGen Chronicles #3

SILKE TP 2/20 Dark Horse NOV010029 $12.95



Reprinting the four-part series by Tony Daniel

SLAINE: THE KING DELUXE HC Titan DEC012567 $24.95

Reprinting material by Pat Mills, Mike McMahon, and Glenn Fabry

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN TP 2/6 Marvel NOV011862 $12.95

Reprinting the Spidey stories by Stan Lee & John Romita from the two hard-to-find late-60s magazines

STAR WARS TALES VOL 1 TP 2/2 Dark Horse OCT010044 $19.95

Featuring the first four issues of the anthology series

STAR WARS: ZAM WESELL TP 2/27 Dark Horse NOV010018 $5.95

Jango Fett is going to need Zam Wesell's help in finding and destroying a powerful artifact that could prove to be very destructive if it fell into the wrong hands.

STARMAN VOL 7: A STARRY KNIGHT TP 2/27 DC DEC010590 $17.95

Starman, accompanied by his comrade Mikaal and a Mother Box-produced hologram of his father, Ted Knight, begins a star-spanning quest with one near-impossible goal: to find the brother of his ladylove, Sadie; reprints #s 47-53

TOM STRONG BOOK TWO HC 2/6 ABC/DC DEC010610 $24.95

Reprinting Tom Strong #s 8-14, featuring Tom Strange, Warren Strong, time travel, other dimensions, interstellar family trips... oh, yeah, and Tom Strong's in here, too!

UNIVERSE X VOL 1 TP 2/6 Marvel NOV011863 $24.95

384-page trade paperback reprinting Universe X #s 0-7, as well as the FF, Cap, and Spidey Earth X oneshots

USAGI YOJIMBO: GRASSCUTTER II—JOURNEY TO ATSU-TA SHRINE LIMITED EDITION HC 2/6 Maverick/Dark Horse NOV01002053 $56.95

USAGI YOJIMBO: GRASSCUTTER II—JOURNEY TO ATSU-TA SHRINE TP 2/6 Maverick/Dark Horse NOV010019 $15.95

Stan Sakai presents a second series of stories focusing on Usagi Yojimbo's legendary sword Kusanagi

VAMPI VOL 1: SWITCHBLADE KISS DARK ANGEL RISING TP Anarchy DEC01220 $14.95

This trade paperback contains the entire "Switchblade Kiss" and "Dark Angel Rising" story arcs, written by David Conway, with artwork by Kevin Lau

VAMPIRELLA: NOWHERESVILLE DELUXE HC Harris Comics DEC012413 $19.95

Reprinting the first three issues by Mark Millar and Mike Mayhew

WHAT'S MICHAEL? VOL 5: MICHAEL'S FAVORITE SPOT TP 2/16 Dark Horse OCT010039 $8.95

You've seen comics and you've seen cats, but you've never seen anything quite like What's Michael?

WOLVERINE: BLOODHUNGRY 2/27 Marvel DEC011822 $6.95

Reprinting Peter David and Sam Kieth's story arc from Marvel Comics Presents #s 85-92

CYCLOPS CLASSIC RESIN STATUE 2/21 Bowen DEC013203 $155.00

Randy Bowen sculpture of the classic John Byrne version of Cyclops

CYCLOPS MODERN RESIN STATUE 2/21 Bowen DEC013204 $155.00

Randy Bowen sculpture of the modern Jim Lee version of Cyclops

DAWN WALL SCROLL 2/27 JAN023429 $14.95

EARTH X DEATHLOK MEGA BUST DF DEC012334 $45.00

Sculpture by Martin Canale based on designs by Alex Ross

EARTH X DEATHLOK VARIANT MEGA BUST DF DEC012335 $60.00

GOLDEN AGE FLASH MINI STATUE 2/6 DC Direct AUG010283 $39.95

5.25" version of the William Paquet statue based on designs by Michael Lark

GREEN LANTERN CORPS FATALITY ACTION FIGURE 2/13 DC Direct AUG010286 $19.95

Green Lantern's adversary—and the enemy of all who wield the emerald ring—is featured in her very own action figure

GREEN LANTERN CORPS KYLE RAYNER ACTION FIGURE 2/13 DC Direct AUG010285 $19.95

The latest Green Lantern earns his very own action figure

KABUKI: SNAPDRAGON MASK 2/22 Moore Creations DEC013200 $24.95

The sixth in a series based on David Mack's Kabuki

KRAVEN MINI BUST 2/21 Bowen DEC013205 $40.00

Thomas Kurtz minibust of Spider-Man's adversary

SPIDER-MAN VS DAREDEVIL CANVAS GICLEE SIGNED DF DEC012361 $599.99

Ultra-realistic reproduction of painting designed to look like brushwork on canvas, signed by creators

STERANKO: SPIRIT OF AMERICA PRINT LIMITED SIGNED & NUMBERED EDITION Vanguard DEC012601 $59.99

STERANKO: SPIRIT OF AMERICA PRINT REGULAR EDITION Vanguard DEC012600 $29.99

Captain America print by Jim Steranko; all proceeds go to WTC charities

SUPERMAN: DEPARTURE FROM KRYPTON STATUE 2/20 DC Direct SEP010287 $175.00

William Paquet offers a three-dimensional rendition of the young Kal-El's departure from his exploding home planet

WONDER WOMAN SNOWGLOBE 2/27 DC Direct SEP010288 $79.95

The Amazon Princess, bullets raised to ward off bullets, is featured in this snowglobe set on a Graeco-Roman style base decorated with Wonder Woman's accoutrements

Molten Merchandise

(February's Hottest Comics-Related Collectibles)

ALEX ROSS UNIVERSE X MONSTER LITHOGRAPH DF/Marvel DEC012038 $49.99

ALEX ROSS UNIVERSE X MONSTER LITHOGRAPH SIGNED DF/Marvel DEC012039 $99.99

CLASSIC COMIC CHARACTERS #29: ALLEY OOP STATUE 2/6 Dark Horse OCT010049H3 $49.95

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